9. Strategic Co-operation Agreement between GAIL and GAZPROM

This covers co-operation in relation to exploration and delivery of natural gas in Russian and India and third countries.

10. MoU between GAIL and STROITRANSGAZ

The cooperation envisages underground storage project in India, Russian and third countries.

11. Agreement of Co-operation between Centre of National Glory, Moscow and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The two institutions will be parties/partners in research, teaching and to further promote the "dialogue of civilization" programme

Indo-Japan relations

2271. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan Foreign Minister visited India in the month of August, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the visit provided an opportunity to review bilateral relations with Japan including steps being taken to further concretize the global partnership;

(c) if so, what were the main points discussed with Japan foreign Minister; and

(d) to what extent both countries have agreed to improve the relations especially economic trade and industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) During the visit, External Affairs Minister had very productive discussions with the Japanese Foreign Minister Kawaguchi on a wide range of bilateral, multilateral and global issues, with special focus on how to strengthen the India-Japan Global Partnership. Both sides exchanged useful ideas on further development of multi-faceted cooperation centering on broadening and deepening of bilateral relations and cooperating with each other in meeting global challenges. Both countries

also decided to support each other's candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council. During the visit, it was also decided to institute a bilateral dialogue mechanism on UN reforms and a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

(d) During the visit, both sides agreed to step up efforts to take India-Japan bilateral economic partnership to a higher level, taking advantage of complementarities in their economies and synergies in trade, investment and hi-tech areas, so that the full potential in this regard could be realized.

Indo-Vietnam friendship

2272. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreements signed with Vietnam when its Minister for Tourism was here recently; and

(b) what are the areas of interest that were discussed for improving the indo-Vietnam friendship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No agreement was signed during the visit.

(b) Several areas of mutual interest were discussed including direct air links, exchange of visits by tour operators and travel writers, cooperation in developing marine tourism and IT enabled services.

Russian stand on Indian seat in Security Council

2273. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of Russia in regard to India's claim for a seat in the Security Council of the United Nations with veto power; and

(b) the details of the discussion with Russia during its President visit to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Russia has expressed its